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Letter dated 2 February 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit for your information note No. 62/GM-SOI dated 1 February 1995 (see annex), addressed to you from Ambassador Eduardo Mora Anda, Under-Secretary for International Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, in which he reports on the serious incidents which are continuing to occur with respect to the delicate situation that exists on the border between Ecuador and Peru.

I should be grateful if you would have this note and its annex circulated as documents of the General Assembly, under agenda item 74, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Luis VALENCIA RODRIGUEZ
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 1 February 1995 from the Under-Secretary for International Organizations of Ecuador addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to note No. 1040-1 of 29 January 1995 addressed to you from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, I have the honour to transmit this report on the current state of the delicate situation that exists on the border between Ecuador and Peru.

On 30 January, Ecuador accepted the proposal made by the guarantor countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol to establish a mission composed of representatives of each of those countries in order to cooperate with Ecuador and Peru in resolving that situation. Ecuador has offered its complete support in order to enable the mission to achieve its objectives speedily. To the same end, Ecuador agreed to attend, together with the representatives of the guarantor countries and Peru, a meeting in Rio de Janeiro on 31 January.

Furthermore, as a reaffirmation of its desire to resort exclusively to peaceful means for the settlement of disputes and to exhaust all possibilities to achieve that objective, Ecuador has requested the convening of the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organization of American States and that request has been granted.

Lastly, in response to the request addressed to the two parties to the conflict by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Ecuador accepted an unconditional cessation of hostilities as of 1200 hours local time on 31 January. Peru, however, contrary to the good faith demonstrated by Ecuador, unexpectedly spoke of a "suspension of military operations", which means that Peru was opting for an uncertain halt to such operations with the possibility of resuming at any time its acts of aggression against Ecuador, as it has subsequently done.

Ecuador believes that the cease-fire is a basic element for the negotiation process and sees no reason at all why the cease-fire should not be definitive.

In spite of the foregoing, as of 1000 hours today, 1 February, Peru's armed forces have launched a massive attack against Ecuador's military detachments in Coangos and Condor Mirador, the latter located in a region that until now had been far from the area of conflict. Peru's offensive is being conducted both on the ground and from the air. For the first time in the conflict, Peru has actively used fighter bombers.

The attack by Peru constitutes a flagrant violation of the cease-fire agreed to by the two nations and the four guarantor countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol: Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States of America. The offensive is being carried out precisely at a time when the Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, Peru and the guarantor countries are meeting in Rio de Janeiro.

The attitude of the Peruvian armed forces demonstrates their intention to violate the most elementary norms of international peaceful coexistence and they are completely ignoring the action taken by the guarantor countries.

The attacks carried out by Peru at a time when an internationally agreed cease-fire is in effect make that nation an aggressor State, whose actions are endangering international peace and security.

(Signed) Eduardo MORA ANDA
Under-Secretary for International
Organizations

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